

**Commissioners Meeting
October 17, 2022 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors and Jerome Buening; Chuck Emsweller via zoom

President Koors welcomed everyone to the October 17th meeting of the Decatur County Commission; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

EMA Director Brad Speer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Pastor Mike Bartlett then offered a prayer.

(Meeting minutes, payroll and claims are emailed to each Commissioners, each Thursday before their Monday meeting)

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the October 3rd meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the accounts payable claims, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the October 14th payroll, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway (Interim) Superintendent Todd Houk told Commissioners he has received several calls that stone and dust pads are needed after Highway crews graded the stone roads. Crews continue to patch roads, mow as requested by school bus drivers. He is training 3 new hires plus a foreman who was promoted from within the department. Crews are starting a drainage-tile job in Burney this morning. **Randall Brooks, RQAW Corporation**, introduced himself and an associate. **RQAW** is an engineering consultant for anything from building designs to road and bridge designs.

In the past 2 weeks, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 33 building inspections, issued 15 new building permits and plan reviews, 1 permit renewal and issued 2 red tags on final inspections-meter was not grounded and there 7 open spaces in a panel box. These have been fixed. He has received a nuisance site complaint on vehicles; he spoke to the property owner of a burnt house in Alert and property owner plans to demolish building yet this year. Mr Koors asked Kenny to send a letter to that property owner since it's 3 years and the property owner still hasn't demolished the building.

Bex Farms Inc has petitioned to vacate the southernmost 3,500+/- feet of South County Road 280 East, ending at US 421 South. (Jessica Routley, AZO Service Management Inc, has corresponded with the Auditor's office to complete the required legal notifications to adjoining property owners and legal ads in the local newspapers.) Mr Koors opened the public hearing on this petition. No one from Bex Farms was in attendance. Mr Koors closed the public hearing since no one offered any comments. **County Attorney Chad Smith** stated the ordinance to vacate will not be signed today as Commissioners have asked BEX Farms to make some road improvements and a cul-de-sac before the stated part of the road is vacated. BEX Farms has reviewed and signed the MOU. Mr Buening moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with terms/conditions; upon successful completion of these tasks, the ordinance vacating part of County Road 280 East is approved upon BEX's successful completion of the MOU terms. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mark Fixmer and Rod Parkins of BEX Farms did come later to today's meeting, but Commissioners nor the public had any questions for them.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall didn't have anything to report.

Commissioners have received 3 estimates for repairing/upgrading the Courthouse Tower Clock: **Americlock** (out of St Louis area)- **\$74,800**; **Verdin Bells and Clocks** (out of Cincinnati area)- **\$58,255** and **Smith Bell and Clock** (Camby, IN) **\$41,363**. All estimates included the electronic control of the clock. Not all three estimates included the same items to replace, repair or paint. Mr Buening would like to explore/see a more updated carrel system, so Mr Koors will check with **Smith Bell and Clock** on few items.

Jail Commander Dana Parker wanted to address information posted on social media concerning the recent surprise inspection of the Detention Center by the **Office of Homeland Security**. He thought it necessary to address comments on social media with the Commissioners and the public about their \$23 million dollar facility. The Sheriff was written up on 11 items that are required to be fixed in 45 days and Commander Parker said each of those 11 items will be fixed by Friday, October 28th. According to Commander Parker 3 of the 11 items are flaws from the builders and 3 others are basic architectural design flaws in the layout of the building. a) 2 smoke detectors were installed behind a HVAC duct so Koorsen opted not to inspect those due to inaccessible locations. b) ventilation duct out of the overhead hoods in the kitchen- no frying is done so there's no chance of grease entering the duct work so Homeland requires all duct work be inspected during every inspection. c) a 36-inch open area around an electrical control panel is required at all times which is challenging at times due to not enough storage space d) batteries for the fire suppression system needed charged even though the indicator still showed green e) 6 blank junction boxes were not covered, covers are now in place f) space heaters under desks didn't have the required 36 inches from flammable items g) excess use of electrical cords for portable appliances; Code 605.5 sets out how and where electrical cords may be 'ran'; the metal detector came from the manufacturer with a 6-inch cord plus a matching extension cord which had to be removed and a surge protector used h) the offices and squad room do not have enough outlets and currently are using surge protectors, but once another position/office equipment, will need an electrician to remedy that; i) caulking is another concern as it's missing on firewalls which is part of the construction defects according to Commander Parker. Most inmates, daily damaging the jail, are indigent so can't charge them for repair costs. He told Commissioners Jail Maintenance Supervisor Greg Lentz does a phenomenal job; also welcomes anyone to come tour the Detention Center.

Mr Buening moved to approve the additional monies for the **2022 Fair Grounds Administrative Board Fund 4910**- \$43,050 for the 2022 Fair and \$79,400 for the Fairgrounds. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. There wasn't a budget adopted by the Council in 2021 for 2022 for this fund, so this motion is necessary to appropriate the cash in Fund 4910.

Mr Smith presented 2 leases between the **Power of the Past** and the Commissioners: one lease for the crop ground and one lease for land to place a building. The first least payment will be due January 1, 2023. Mr Koors will take these 2 leases to the Power of the Past Board to review.

Mr Buening moved to adopt **Resolution 2022-7** (Build-Operate-Transfer) for a new Public Works Campus Project. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The Commissioners had approved funding this project to build a new Highway Garage campus at their September 19th meeting.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed **2023 Holiday Schedule** copied from the State's Personnel schedule with the addition of Juneteenth- June and New Year's Eve- December 29th. After some discussion, Commissioners removed the New Year's Eve holiday and Juneteenth. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule as amended, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Emergency Management Director Brad Speer shared information on 3 grants: the State has approved **EMP Salary reimbursement** for 2023; State is now reviewing application to the **EMP Competitive Grant** application to be use for the purchase of a portable sign and the **Hazardous Material and Equipment Planning Grant** which Mr Speer will work with the local Volunteer Fire Departments to review their needs. Mr Speer stated these are all 'no match, straight grants'. On another matter, Mr Speer told Commissioners he may need them to issue a "no burn ban" since everything is dry; surrounding counties are considering this as well.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins plans to give a presentation on the Regional Development Authority at Commissioners' next meeting.

The Commissioners next meeting will be November 7th, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Emsweller moved to recess, Mr Buening seconded and Mr. Koors concurred. Meeting recessed.

Attest: _____

Date: _____